

view, give local districts which send high school students to the vocational

added, referring to the series of checks and cross checks exercised over the approval of

Cruz mayor, "is a good fascist dictatorship, like we have now.

*Green Sheet 1-17-79*

# City given bad news about underground water supply

The Santa Cruz City Water Commission heard Monday what Soquel Creek County District directors were told last month — the underground basin that supplies water for all of the midcounty area and a portion of the city of Santa Cruz is rapidly approaching its limits to support new growth in the area.

Geologist Ken Muir of the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park told the city water commissioners that he is now writing a report showing that local water purveyors will be able to pump less than half of the water they originally thought from the Purisma sand formation that flows under the midcounty area

before salt water intrusion contaminates the fresh water supplies for the populace.

Muir said Monday that his best guess at present of the "safe annual yield" is now 5,000 to 6,000 acre feet from the area. The Soquel Creek County Water District is now pumping 3,500 acre feet a year.

Initially, local water officials believed the aquifer could supply 10,000 acre feet a year to the basin.

Muir said salt water intrusion has been detected in shallow wells drilled around the New Brighton Beach area and at one well in the Opal Cliffs area operated by the Soquel Creek County Water District.

"The yield is half of what it had been calculated in the past," Muri said, "about half of the 10,000 acre feet."

The danger is not running out of water, said Muri, but in reducing the pressure in the artesian system and allowing seawater to creep into the coastal area, contaminating the fresh water wells.

"Seawater is moving shoreward from Monterey Bay but we don't know where the interface is," Muir added.

"The wells that show increases in chloride (salt) are perforated from sea level to minus 100 feet," Muir said.

Those wells are the Soquel

Creek District well in Opal Cliffs and the private wells in the New Brighton Beach area, Muir indicated.

The remainder of the Soquel Creek District wells and the Santa Cruz city wells in the old Beltz water system in Live Oak draw from much deeper stata in the Purisma formation, an area that produces more water for the commercial users than the shallow private wells.

Muir was questioned by water commissioners on the effects of drought and wet years in determining the amounts of water that can be drawn off safely.

Noting that the area is now in the midst of a prolonged dry spell, Muir said, "If we had a series of wet years, the system could recover. But if it doesn't come soon enough, the damage will be done and it is very difficult to flush out salt water."

The system works on pressure, nto volume of water, Muir said. Water that is absorbed into the aquifer in the Santa Cruz mountains moves perhaps 45-50 feet a year through the sand stata. But the pressure from a very wet year can be seen in two or three months time as water levels in wells rebound.

Santa Cruz city water director Morris Allen argued that the USGS figures were influenced by the very dry years just experienced in Santa Cruz County.

"Not really," said Muir. "The water levels didn't seem to be influenced too highly by the drought."

Commissioners took no action on Muir's report. The geologist indicated it will be several months before a final report is issued by the service on the area's water problems, but added that a draft report will be reviewed by the Soquel District prior to a general release of the report.

## Green Sheet

Published twice each week by Watsonville Newspapers, Inc. at 4895A Capitola Road, Capitola, California, 95010. Telephone 688-3767 (editorial) or 688-2114 (advertising). Bill Akers, managing editor; Larry Boline, advertising director. The Green Sheet is distributed by Fischer Distributing Co., 1010 Main Street, Watsonville, Calif.

The Green Sheet and Cabrillo Times was founded in 1970 and was adjudged a newspaper of general circulation in 1971, court decree No. 45805.



PRINTING  
LITHO  
AND  
OFFSET  
PRINTING

Delivery payment of \$1.00 per month is voluntary. Single copy 15 cents. Mail \$40 a year in advance.

For missed delivery phone 688-8522

## QUALITY USED CLOTHING

*The Silk Rose*



Come in and browse

Open 10-5

4109 Soquel Dr. at 41st

Next to A-1 Vacuum

Consignments received — Closed Sun. & Mon.